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Russell August Langelle

Robert Genzman and Harold Leap interviewed Russell August Langelle at CIA headquarters on May 4, 1978. The interview yielded the following information:

Langelle joined the CIA in September 1950, and worked mainly in SR9 of the Soviet Russia Division. In November 1955 he resigned from the Agency on the pretext that he was disgruntled with his assignments. His CIA files would have reflected this termination of employment. The only document to the contrary would have been a memorandum from the Director of Central Intelligence Allan Dulles, stating that Langelle would retain all rights and benefits when he returned to the CIA. (at present this document would probably be in his personnel file.)

Approximately fifteen people knew that Langelle was still with the CIA after his resignation in 1955. These included John Maury (SE), Joe Bulik (SR 9), Quentin Johnson (Chief of Operations), George Kisevalper, Frank Levy, Ted Polling,

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Jack Kindschi, June Sworbuck, Ed Galloway, Leonard McCoy (Reports and Requirements), Pierre de Silva (COS), and someone at the State Department's Office of Security.

At the time of his resignation, Langelle applied for employment with the State Department. In the interim he worked at the Hecht Company. In March 1956 he started to work at the State Department as a Security Officer. In September 1956 he was sent to Vienna, where he earned a reputation for being a strict Security Officer at the Embassy. He was deliberately tough on CIA personnel who breached security, in order to build his cover as a non-CIA foreign service officer. His salary was paid by the State Department. The CIA Chief of Station in Vienna and the Ambassador knew he was with the CIA. 11112575

Langelle served as the Security Officer at the Moscow Embassy from December 1957 to September 1959. In addition, he was the senior CIA officer there. The CIA contingent in Moscow consisted of five or six officers

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working inside the Embassy and approximately four outside. Inside, with deep cover, were George P. Winters (Econ. Officer), FNU Mahoney, FNU Venables, and Steve Washenko (Econ. or Agric. Officer). Outside were Jean Lekerman (teacher at the American school) and three or four students, who handled orientation projects rather than operations projects.

Langelle handled CIA communications in Moscow. The CIA used State Department channels of communication, but could code messages by means of one-pad encrypting so that the message was secret until it was forwarded to CIA headquarters, where it was decoded.

In 1959 the Soviets declared Langelle persona non grata as a result of his involvement with P. S. Popov. Langelle was the case officer of Popov, who worked for the GRU, Soviet military intelligence. While making a contact with Popov, Langelle was detained by the KGB and was questioned for two and a half hours. The KGB attempted to recruit him, and then released him. The State

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Department filed a formal protest, but Langelle was told to leave the Soviet Union within three days. He left the Soviet Union in early October 1959.

Langelle first became aware of Lee Harvey Oswald when he heard in a conversation that a Marine had contacted the American consular office in Moscow to renounce his citizenship. He later heard that this individual had changed his mind and was returning to the United States. He does not recall the details of these conversations, but he believes they took place in the United States.

11112577

Langelle characterized Oswald's defection as a consular case to be handled by consular officers, rather than an intelligence case involving intelligence officers, who were shorthanded in Moscow at that time. He stated that the few intelligence officers in Moscow at that time were involved in specific operations, and did not perform general intelligence functions. He also stated that intelligence officers at the Embassy did not use the consular officers for intelligence purposes, and that there were

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no CIA people in the consular section.

Langelle stated that the military intelligence people at the Embassy probably would have been contacted about Oswald's defection. The military intelligence personnel included Leo Dulacki (Marines), Paul Adams (Navy), John Munson (Navy), and Ted Hoffman (Army). He did not know whether Alexis Davison (Navy) was an intelligence officer or whether Davison was involved in the Penkovsky case.

Langelle stated that when Oswald left the Soviet Union, he was the responsibility of the State Department, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the FBI.

11112578

When Langelle left Moscow in 1959, Winters was the senior CIA officer there. Mahoney and Leberman were still there, and Washenko may still have been there. Langelle's replacement as Embassy Security Officer was John Abidian, who was not with the CIA. Abidian was later replaced by Hugh Montgomery, who was Winter's successor as senior CIA officer.

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Montgomery was later replaced by Paul Garbler, who became the first officially designated Chief of Station in Moscow. Other CIA officers in Moscow circa 1962 included Rodney Carlson, Bill Horbaly, and possibly John D. Hemenway.

At headquarters the chief of the Soviet Russia Division was John Maury, followed by Howard Osborne and then David E. Murphy.

With regard to American journalists in Moscow, Langelle had no contacts with R. G. Korengold or Aline Mosby, did not know A. I. Goldberg, and was contacted by Priscilla Johnson for an interview after he was declared persona non grata.

When Langelle returned to the United States, he continued working for the State Department. He resumed his CIA duties on a part-time basis in 1961. He dealt with communications between Washington and Moscow. In September 1961 he resumed his CIA duties on a full-time basis at headquarters. He worked mainly in the Soviet Russia Division, External Operations; Africa and Europe. At present he is still with the CIA and still paid by the State Department, but he plans to retire soon.

SECRET

~~L'Angeli~~ Langelle was born on October 7, 1922. His social security number is 495-18-8808. He is married, with three children.

~~L'Angeli~~ Langelle joined the CIA in September, 1950, and worked mainly in SR9 of the Soviet Russian Division. In November 1955 he resigned from the Agency on the pretext that he was disgruntled with his assignments. His CIA file would ~~have~~ have reflected this termination of employment. The only document to the contrary would have been a memorandum from the Director of Central Intelligence Allen Dulles, stating that ~~L'Angeli~~ Langelle would retain all rights and benefits when he returned to the CIA. (~~This document~~ at present this document would probably be in his personnel file.) Approximately fifteen people knew that he was still with the CIA after his resignation in 1955. These included John Maury (CSE), Joe Bulik (SR9), Quentin Johnson (Chief of Operations), George Kisevalter (sp), Frank Levy, Ted Polling, Jack Windschi, June Sworbuck, Ed Galloway, Leonard McCoy (Reports and Requirements), Pierre da Silva (COS), and someone at the State Department's Office of Security.

SECRET 11112580

~~L'Ang~~ At the time of his resignation ~~L'Angeli~~ Langelle applied for employment with the State Department.

1542 R

SECRET

Langelle handled CIA communications in Moscow. The CIA used State Department channels of communication, but ~~code~~ could code messages by means of one-pad encrypting so that the message was secret until it was forwarded to CIA Headquarters for decoding.

11112581

SECRET

2

deliberately tough on CIA personnel for security breaches in order to ~~[illegible]~~ build his cover as a non-CIA foreign service officer. His salary was paid by the State Department. SECRET

In the interim he worked at the Hecht Company. In March 1956 he ~~began~~ started to work at the State Department as a Security Officer. ~~His salary was paid by the State Department~~ ~~He was sent to Vienna in September 1956.~~ In September 1956 he was sent to Vienna, where he ~~developed~~ earned ~~the~~ a reputation ~~[illegible]~~ for being at the Embassy. He was a strict Security Officer. The CIA Chief of Station ~~and the~~ in Vienna and the ambassador knew he was with the CIA. ~~He served as the Security~~

Par ~~[illegible]~~ ¶ ~~L'Angelo~~ Langelle served as the Security Officer at the Moscow Embassy from December 1957 to September 1959. In addition, he was the senior CIA officer there, with five or six CIA officers working inside the Embassy and approximately four outside. Inside, with deep cover, were ~~Inside were~~ George P. Winters (Econ. Officer), Mahoney, Venables, and Steve Vashenko (Econ. or Agric. Officer). Outside were Jean Leberman (a teacher at the American school) and three or four students, who handled orientation projects rather than operations projects.

[insert]

SECRET 11112582

In 1959 ~~L'Ange~~ the Soviets declared L'Angeli persona non grata as a result of ~~[illegible]~~ his involvement with P.S. Popov. L'Angeli ~~was~~ the case officer for Popov, who worked for the ~~Soviet~~ GRU, Soviet military intelligence. ~~L'Angeli~~ Langelle ~~had been contacting Popov~~ While

3

SECRET

~~after~~ making a contact with Popov, Langelle was detained by the KGB and was questioned for two and a half hours. The KGB attempted to recruit him, and then released him. ~~and~~ The State Department filed a formal protest, but Langelle was forced to leave the Soviet Union within three days.

Langelle first became aware of Lee Harvey Oswald when he heard in a conversation that a ~~former~~ Marine had contacted the American consular office in Moscow to renounce his citizenship. He later heard that this individual had changed his mind and was returning to the United States. He does not recall the details of these conversations, but he believes they took place in the United States.

11112583

Langelle characterized Oswald's defection as a consular case to be handled by consular officers, rather than an intelligence case ~~which~~ involving intelligence officers, who were shorthanded in Moscow at that time. He stated that the few intelligence officers in Moscow at that time were involved in specific operations, and did not ~~handle~~ perform general intelligence functions.* He stated that Oswald, when he ~~returned~~

SECRET

* He also stated that the intelligence officers at the Embassy did not use the consular officers for intelligence purposes.

4

and that there were no CIA ~~employees~~ people in the consular section.

SECRET

left the Soviet Union, was the responsibility of the State Department, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the FBI.

When Langelle left Moscow in 1959, Winters was the senior CIA officer there. Mahoney and Leberman were still there, and Washenko may still have been there. Langelle's replacement as Embassy Security Officer was John Abidian, who was not with the CIA. Abidian was latered replaced by Hugh Montgomery, who ~~became the senior~~ ~~replaced~~ was Winters's ~~as the~~ successor as senior CIA officer. Montgomery was later replaced by Paul Garbler, who became the first officially designated Chief of Station in Moscow. Other CIA officers in Moscow circa 1962 included Rodney Carlson, Bill Harbley, and possibly John D. Hemingway.

~~Military intelligence personnel in Moscow included Paul Adams (Naval) attache (Navy), Ted Hoffman (Army~~

At headquarters, the chief of the Soviet Russia Division was John Maury, followed by Howard Osborne and then David E. Murphy.

SECRET

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When Longelle returned to the United States, he continued working for the State Department. He resumed his CIA duties on a part-time basis in 1961. He dealt with communications between Washington and Moscow. In September 1961 he resumed his CIA duties on a full-time basis at Headquarters. He worked mainly in the Soviet Russia Division, External Operations, Africa and Europe. ~~He is present~~ at present he is still with the CIA and is still paid by the State Department, but he plans to retire soon.

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Russell August ~~[illegible]~~ Langelle

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10-7-22

495-18-8808

M 3 ch. SR Div. (SR9) language, operational + mil. experience, relig., stabil.

CIA Sept. 50 ~~[illegible]~~ word-disgruntled

Nov. 55 resigned from agency - Sec. Off.

↓ interim job at Hecht Co. started State Mar ~~[illegible]~~56 Vienna Sept. 56

memo from director all rights & benefits when returns (Dulles)

15 knew (SR 9 - internal ops Hqs. component + couple of officers in Division

Vienna cover building COS knew (briefed orally) status + amb.

Moscow - Dec. 57

Sept. 59

people all buried

not a station

first COS Paul Garbler

SE John Maury

SR9 Joe Bulick

Ch. of Ops Quentin Johnson

~~George [illegible]~~(sp.) Kisevalter

~~Jack Kinsey~~

Frank Levy

Ted Polling

Jack Kindschi

June Swotbuck

Ed Galloway

11112586

Reports + Requirements

Leonard McCoy

COS Pierre de Silva

DOS - Office of Security

~~[illegible]~~ Stepka not aware

Moscow - 5 to 6 officers inside

4 outside

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2 Sangelle

~~[illegible]~~

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George P.
inside – Winters, Mahoney, Venables
Steve Washenko (Econ. Officer)
outside – Jean Leberman – teacher
3 or 4 students – orientation
rather than operations

left in 59 — John Abidian (State Sec. Officer
took over State
responsibilities) – sort of senior

Abidian replaced by Hugh Montgomery (integrated) senior officer

C/A George P. Winters – Econ. Off.
Washenko – agric. Off. maybe still there
Mahoney + Leberman

PNG – agency operation
~~[illegible]~~ penetration on GRU – mil. intell.
Pyter Popov agent
He was case off.
case compromised
got approval from Thrush.
to kidnap – as stepped off a bus
tried to recruit
released after 2½ hrs.
said they would get in touch
State protested
PNG

11112587

Back to US – worked for State Jan 60
handled State Dept duties
+ agency functions

Resumed CIA partime '61, Sept. 61 HQ at full time basis. communications to Mos.

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Sangelle
~~L'Angelo~~

3

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(Penkovsky)
cut-out-Brit. wife
SR9 Sept. 61 - 62

[redacted] moved back to CIA
on full-time basis Sept. 61
(Dec. 58 - Sept. 59)

Mahony GSA officer

Communicat - Mos. to HQ

SR9 Jack Maury

Winters remained

LHO,
in conversation a consular officer said Marine
renounced citizenship

walk-ins
consular off. would bring it to your attention

George Kisvalter - in Berlin, handled Popov while
in E. Berlin + Vienna.
- handled Penkosky.
- maybe Nosenko.

11112588

Used State communication
one pad encrypting

SECRET

Langelle
~~L'Angeli~~

4

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no [redacted] CIA people in consular section

mil. intell. Paul Adams Nav.
Ted Hoffman Arm
Munson ~~Mundays~~ Nav.
Dulacki Mar.

would have been contacted

Kokengold - no contacts
Johnson - asked for interview after his PNG
Mosby - no contacts
Goldberg - didn't know

Davison - doesn't know if agency
not involved in Penk. to his knowledge

dip. personnel could not be used for intel. without
prior approval from State.

Provocations
Hairmstone
~~[illegible]~~

11112589

Naval aviator
Atsugi - 53-55

SECRET

Langelle
L'Angeli

5

SECRET

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62 Hugh Montgomery (senior)
John D. Hemingway (?)
Paul Garbler (COS; replaced Montgomery)
Rodney Carlson
Bill Harbley

No common source register with mil. + Moscow

63 - SR, Chief of External Ops.
[illegible] Africa + Eur.
Still paid by State (FSR 4 in Moscow
GS 13 - Moscow)

David E. Murphy - Chief of SR Div. 64-65
COS in Berlin during
Popov operation while
L'A in Moscow

then Maury
followed by Howard Osborne
" " Murphy

11112590

SECRET

5

SECRET

☆

He believed that the military intelligence people at the Embassy would have been contacted about Oswald's defection. The military intelligence personnel included ~~Paul Hoffman~~ ~~Adams~~ (Navy); Dulacki (Marines); Paul Adams (Navy); Munson (Navy) and Ted Hoffman (Army).

Langelle did not know whether Alexis Davison (Navy) was an intelligence officer or whether he was involved in the Penkovsky case. ~~or whether~~ ~~Davison~~

With regard to American journalists in Moscow, Langelle had no contacts with R. G. Korengold or Aline Mosby, did not know A. I. Goldberg, and was contacted by Priscilla Johnson ~~after his expulsion~~ for an interview after he was declared persona non grata.

11112591

SECRET

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Winters

rec. 61 Eugene Mahoney - Rt. 1 Berkeley Springs, W.Va

30-61 - 11 64 Garbler - Vienna 1503 Irving Hill Ct. 22180

Osborne - McLean

17 Feb. 62 - 20 Sep. 63 Montgomery -

356-4650

first COS

26 Jun 62 - 14 Dec. 62 Rodney Carlson

11 Jul 63, 31 Aug 65 Edward Gotchef HQ

annual leave til May 22

11 Jan 63, 18 Jan. 66 Jerry Brehn HQ 2 p.m. May 12

C/SR John Maury

1 Dec 54 - 29 Jul. 62 3704 Farr Ave, Fairfax

Howard J. Osborne

30 Jul 62 15 Sept. 63 atty. John Debelius

948-6727

David C. Murphy

1537 Forest

16 Sept 63 - 10 Mar 68 Villa Lane, McLean

356-9523

11112592

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